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**Technology Center 2100**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/919,764  
Filing Date: July 31, 2001  
Appellant(s): GRAINGER, JEFFRY J.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chad E. King (Reg. No. 44,187)  
For Appellant

**EXAMINER'S ANSWER**

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 8-13-2007 appealing from the Office action mailed 10-11-2006.

**(1) Real Party in Interest**

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

**(2) Related Appeals and Interferences**

The following are the related appeals, interferences, and judicial proceedings known to the Examiner which may be related to, directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/872,764

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/919,768

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/996,338 (Appeal No. 2007-0776)

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/996,341

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/997,311

**(3) Status of Claims**

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

**(4) Status of Amendments After Final**

No amendment after final has been filed.

**(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter**

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

**(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal**

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

**(7) Claims Appendix**

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

**(8) Evidence Relied Upon**

6,499,026

Rivette et al.

12-2002

**(9) Grounds of Rejection**

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rivette et al., Patent # 6,499,026, hereinafter Rivette.

7. With regard to claim 1, which teaches a user interface that provides access to patent information comprising: a first display section that displays a plurality of first file links selectable by the user, each of the links providing access to a patent document, that was filed in or sent from a patent office stored on a computer readable medium in an image file format and a second display section which displays a plurality of second file links selectable by the user, providing access to a patent file associated with an application program and stored on a computer readable medium, Rivette teaches, in column 4, lines 10-14 and column 17, lines 35-38, a system for viewing patent related information comprising: a database used for storing patent information, in column 114,

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lines 5-40 and figures 117, 118, 123, and 124, a group pane for displaying top level patent group information and a document pane for displaying a list of patents and other documents in the selected group. With regard to claim 1, further teaching wherein when one of the first file links is selected an associated underlying resource is automatically returned, Rivette further teaches, in column 115, lines 1-15, that upon user selection of a patent file/document the actual document is displayed to the user using the user interface module. With regard to claim 1, further teaching the patent documents and the patent files accessible from the first and second display sections all pertains to the patent application, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 17-46 and figure 117, the information pertaining to patent documents where, if a user drills down to a specific application in the group pane, the only information left to be displayed in the document pane and notes pane would be the information specific to the application (title, abstract, inventor, notes, etc, of the patent application).

8. With regard to claims 2, 14, and 21, which teach the patent files stored on a computer readable medium in a format native to the application program or convertible to the native application program, Rivette teaches, in column 115, lines 8-15 and column 113, lines 10-35, the user interface module being an application program used in displaying patent files in a variety of formats.

9. With regard to claims 3 and 31, which teach at least one of the patent files accessible through the plurality of second file links corresponding to a patent document accessible through the first file links, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 21-25 and 40-46 and figure 117, the document pane being a list of document is the group pane

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showing that an overlap exists. Furthermore, a user can via drag-and-drop assign an association between panes.

10. With regard to claim 4, which teaches a third display section containing a correspondence between one or more of: inventor, in-house, or outside representative client systems, pertaining to the patent, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 47-57, column 20, lines 15-20, and figures 117 and 118, a notes pane containing correspondence generated by the users of the system.

11. With regard to claims 5, 18, and 29, which teach the first, second, and third plurality of file links being either html links or folders, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 13-21, column 115, lines 1-15 and in figures 123 and 124, file links being either folders or links to documents; and in column 123, lines 34-45, column 39, lines 39-54, and in figure 145a, files being linked by hyperlinks.

12. With regard to claim 6, which teaches the first, second, and third sections being a panel on a Web page, Rivette teaches, in column 123, lines 34-45, column 39, lines 39-54, and in figure 145a, the display being in a web browser for communication over a network.

13. With regard to claim 7, which teaches the sections on a Windows based environment, Rivette teaches, in column 34, lines 19-26, client systems display windows being in a Windows™ based environment.

14. With regard to claims 8 and 27, which teach the sections displayed adjacent to each other across a width of a display, Rivette teaches, in figure 117, the panes being display adjacent to one another across the width of the display.

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15. With regard to claim 9, which teaches the second display section including a plurality of fourth file links, being prior art references, Rivette teaches, in column 123, lines 34-45 and figure 143a, documents access via the panels providing selectable file links to prior art documents.

16. With regard to claim 10, which teaches the first and second display sections being separate windows, Rivette teaches, in figure 117, the panes (Group Window, Document Window, and Notes Window) being in separate windows.

17. With regard to claim 11, which teaches the first and second display sections being panels of a single window, Rivette teaches, in figure 117, the panes (Group Pane, Document Pane, and Notes Pane) being in the same window 11702.

18. With regard to claim 13, which teaches a method of providing access to information pertaining to a patent application, said method comprising: storing said information on a computer readable medium, Rivette teaches, in column 4, lines 10-14 and column 17, lines 35-38, a system for viewing patent related information comprising a database used for storing patent information. With regard to claim 13, further teaching the information including a correspondence generated from one or more of an inventor client system, an in-house client system and outside representative client system, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 47-57, column 20, lines 15-20, and figures 117 and 118, a notes pane containing correspondence generated by the users of the system. With regard to claim 13, further teaching the information including patent documents filed in or sent from a patent office and patent files associate with said patent application, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 5-40 and figures 117, 118, 123,

and 124, a group pane for displaying top level patent group information and a document pane for displaying a list of patents and other documents in the selected group. Rivette further teaches, in column 115, lines 1-15, that upon user selection of a patent file/document the actual document is displayed to the user. With regard to claim 13, further teaching at least some of the patent documents being stored in an image file format, Rivette teaches, in column 115, lines 1-15, the patent documents being stored in an image format. With regard to claim 13, further teaching at least some of the patent files being associated with an application program, Rivette teaches, in column 115, lines 8-15 and column 113, lines 10-35, the user interface module being an application program used in displaying patent files in a variety of formats. With regard to claim 13, further teaching accessing the computer readable medium with a computer processor used to generate on the display a first, second, and third separate sections comprising said correspondence, said patent documents, and said patent files respectfully, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 5-12, the processing and displaying on the screen of the three windows, including group pane, document pane, and notes pane.

19. With regard to claims 15, 16, 25, and 26, which teaches a forth section including summary information related to the patent application, including at least title and file number and further comprising an information icon that when selected causes additional summary information to be displayed, Rivette teaches, in column 115, lines 1-15, column 123, lines 34-45, in figure 143a and in figures 125-127, that upon selection of a patent document a widow is displayed including patent summary information (title, file



number, etc) and upon a further selection of a prior art reference within this widow additional information is displayed.

20. With regard to claim 17, which teaches the first, second, and third display sections comprising a plurality of rows containing a file link selectable by a user to allow the user to view one or more of the correspondence, Rivette teaches, column 115, lines 1-15 and in figure 118, the display sections comprising a plurality of rows of file links.

21. With regard to claim 20, which teaches computer implemented method of providing access to information pertaining to a patent application, said method comprising: storing said information on a computer readable medium, Rivette teaches, in column 4, lines 10-14 and column 17, lines 35-38, a system for viewing patent related information comprising a database on a server used for storing patent information. With regard to claim 20, further teaching the information including a correspondence generated from one or more of an inventor client system, an in-house client system and outside representative client system, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 47-57, column 20, lines 15-20, and figures 117 and 118, a notes pane containing correspondence generated by the users of the system. With regard to claim 20, further teaching the information including patent documents filed in or sent form a patent office and patent files associate with said patent application, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 5-40 and figures 117, 118, 123, and 124, a group pane for displaying top level patent group information and a document pane for displaying a list of patents and other documents in the selected group. Rivette further teaches, in column 115, lines 1-15, that upon user selection of a patent file/document the actual document is displayed to

the user. With regard to claim 20, further teaching at least some of the patent documents being stored in an image file format, Rivette teaches, in column 115, lines 1-15, the patent documents being stored in an image format. With regard to claim 20, further teaching at least some of the patent files being associated with an application program, Rivette teaches, in column 115, lines 8-15 and column 113, lines 10-35, the user interface module being an application program used in displaying patent files in a variety of formats. With regard to claim 20, further teaching generating a web page from the sever system on a client system comprising a first, second, and third separate sections comprising said correspondence, said patent documents, and said patent files respectfully, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 5-12, the displaying on the screen of the three windows, including group pane, document pane, and notes pane. Where Rivette further teaches, in column 123, lines 34-45, column 39, lines 39-54, and in figure 145a, the display being in a web browser on a client system generated by communication over a network.

22. With regard to claim 23, which teaches the patent document being in a bit mapped format, Rivette teaches, in column 41, lines 42-45 and in column 115, lines 1-15, patent document image documents created in a bitmapped format.

23. With regard to claim 24, which teaches the patent documents stored in a bit mapped format include documents scanned from a paper document and documents generated from patent files, Rivette teaches, in column 41, lines 42-45 in column 115, lines 1-15, and column 2, lines 15-34, patent document image documents created in a bitmapped format from actual paper documents.

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24. With regard to claim 28, which teaches the first and third sections comprising a create icon that when selected by a client system creates a document to be stored in that section, wherein at least some information in the document is populated with information stored in the database, Rivette further teaches, in column 115, line 44 through column 116, line 29, buttons in the first and third panels to add items to the listing.

25. With regard to claim 32, which teaches a server system for managing information related to patent applications comprising: a processor, a database, and a memory storing a computer program, Rivette teaches, in column 4, lines 10-14, column 14, line 46 through column 15, line 12 and lines 40-46, and column 17, lines 35-38, a server system for viewing patent related information comprising a database used for storing patent information, a processor, and a memory storing an computer program. With regard to claim 32, further teaching the information including a correspondence generated from one or more of an inventor client system, an in-house client system and outside representative client system, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 47-57, column 20, lines 15-20, and figures 117 and 118, a notes pane containing correspondence generated by the users of the system. With regard to claim 32, further teaching the information including patent documents filed in or sent form a patent office and patent files associate with said patent application, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 5-40 and figures 117, 118, 123, and 124, a group pane for displaying top level patent group information and a document pane for displaying a list of patents and other documents in the selected group. Rivette further teaches, in column 115, lines 1-15,

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that upon user selection of a patent file/document the actual document is displayed to the user. With regard to claim 32, further teaching at least some of the patent files being associated with an application program, Rivette teaches, in column 115, lines 8-15 and column 113, lines 10-35, the user interface module being an application program used in displaying patent files in a variety of formats. With regard to claim 32, further teaching generating on the display a first, second, and third separate sections comprising said correspondence, said patent documents, and said patent files respectfully, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 5-12, the processing and displaying on the screen of the three windows, including group pane, document pane, and notes pane.

26. With regard to claim 33, which teaches a networked system comprising: a communication network, with a client system comprising a processor and a display, and a server system comprising a processor, a database, and memory, Rivette teaches, in column 4, lines 10-14, column 14, line 46 through column 15, line 12 and lines 40-46, column 17, lines 35-38, and figures 3 and 11, a networked system for viewing patent related information comprising: a server with an a database used for storing patent information, a processor, and a memory, coupled to a client system comprising a display, and a processor. With regard to claim 33, further teaching the information including a correspondence generated from one or more of an inventor client system, an in-house client system and outside representative client system, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 47-57, column 20, lines 15-20, and figures 117 and 118, a notes pane containing correspondence generated by the users of the system. With regard to claim

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33, further teaching the information including patent documents filed in or sent from a patent office and patent files associated with said patent application, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 5-40 and figures 117, 118, 123, and 124, a group pane for displaying top level patent group information and a document pane for displaying a list of patents and other documents in the selected group. Rivette further teaches, in column 115, lines 1-15, that upon user selection of a patent file/document the actual document is displayed to the user. With regard to claim 33, further teaching at least some of the patent files being associated with an application program, Rivette teaches, in column 115, lines 8-15 and column 113, lines 10-35, the user interface module being an application program used in displaying patent files in a variety of formats. With regard to claim 33, further teaching generating on the display a first, second, and third separate sections comprising said correspondence, said patent documents, and said patent files respectively, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 5-12, the processing and displaying on the screen of the three windows, including group pane, document pane, and notes pane.

27. With regard to claim 34, which teaches the communication network being the Internet, Rivette teaches, in column 123, lines 34-45, column 39, lines 39-54, and in figure 145a, the display being in a web browser, such as Netscape (Navigator™) or Microsoft (Explorer™) (used for Internet based communication), for communication over a network.

28. With regard to claim 35, which teaches a computer graphical user interface that provides access to information pertaining to a patent application, said interface

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comprising: a first, second, and third display sections displayed side-by-side across a width of a display, Rivette teaches, in column 4, lines 10-14, a system for viewing patent related information comprising a database used for storing patent information, where Rivette further teaches, in column 114, lines 6-14 and figure 117, the three panes being display adjacent to one another across the width of the display. With regard to claim 35, further teaching display sections with a plurality of rows the first display section including image file links of history documents filed in or sent from a patent office and the second display section displaying document files associated with said patent application, Rivette teaches, column 115, lines 1-15 and in figure 118, the display sections comprising a plurality of rows of file links. Rivette further teaches, in column 114, lines 5-40 and figures 117, 118, 123, and 124, a group pane for displaying top-level patent group information and a document pane for displaying a list of patents and other documents in the selected group. Rivette further teaches, in column 115, lines 1-15, that upon user selection of a patent file/document the actual document is displayed to the user. Rivette further teaches, in column 115, lines 1-15, the documents/files being displayable in an application program in either a text format and/or an image format. With regard to claim 35, further teaching the third display section including a correspondence generated from one or more of an inventor client system, an in-house client system and outside representative client system, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 47-57, column 20, lines 15-20, and figures 117 and 118, a notes pane containing correspondence generated by the users of the system. With regard to claim 35, which teaches the history documents, the application documents, and the correspondence

documents pertain to the patent or patent application, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 17-46 and figure 117, the information pertaining to patent documents where, if a user drills down to a specific application in the group pane, the only information left to be displayed in the document pane would be the title, abstract, inventor, etc, of the patent application. With regard to claim 35, further teaching that when one of the file links is selected the associated underlying resource is automatically returned, Rivette further teaches, in column 115, lines 1-15, that upon user selection of a patent file/document the actual document is displayed to the user.

29. With regard to claim 36, which teaches a forth section including summary information related to the patent application spaced vertically from the first, second, and third display sections, including a title and an icon that when selected provides additional summary information, including at least title and file number, Rivette teaches, in column 115, lines 1-15, column 123, lines 34-45, in figure 143a and in figures 125-127, that upon selection of a patent document a widow is displayed including patent summary information (title, file number, etc) and upon a further selection of a prior art reference within this widow additional information is displayed.

30. With regard to claims 37 and 38, which teach the associated underlying resource comprises a document, a page, a folder, or a package, Rivette teaches, in column 115, lines 1-15 and figures 117, 118, 123, and 124, selection of a patent item automatically providing the document/page.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

31. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

32. Claims 12, 19, 22, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rivette et al., Patent # 6,499,026, hereinafter Rivette.

33. With regard to claims 12, 19, and 22, which teach the patent documents being locked and not available to be edited, Rivette teaches, in column 19, lines 48-53, that these documents are stored on a centralized server and represent actual Patents which obviously would not allow for a user to edit the patent images. One would have been motivated to make such an assertion because if client users could access the Patent Offices centralized electronic database of patents and edit them at any time a patent would hold no value, due to lack of enforcement of content.

34. With regard to claim 30, which teaches the first and third sections comprising a upload icon that when selected allows an electronic document to be associated with the patent application, Rivette teaches, in column 101, line 60 through column 102, line 19, an option for a user to update the database at the server with a local document. Rivette further teaches button on the toolbar for exporting data (see column 115, lines 44-60 and figure 135). Rivette doesn't explicitly state that there is a button that initiates this upload of notes, but it would be obvious that some form of initiating element would exist.



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One would have been motivated to have such a button because this would be easily allow a correspondence between individuals at different ends as is shown by the users setting of access rights to notes in column 20, lines 25-37.

**(10) Response to Argument****Claim 1:**

With respect to the arguments directed at the group of claims including Claims 1, the Appellant's arguments are focused on the limitations regarding the panes containing information pertaining to the same patent application. More specifically, as stated from representative Claim 1, the limitation argued is:

*"...wherein said patent documents and said patent files accessible from said first and second display sections all pertain to said patent application."*

Since the interpretation of the limitation is the basis for the arguments, the Examiner's interpretation is now given. The claim, as interpreted by the examiner, pertains to a display that provides two panes for viewing patent data, where a first pane selects a subset of patent criteria, and a second pane's content is constrained by the select criteria, where if a single patent is selected in a first pane only patent documents pertaining to this patent are displayed in the second pane. As stated in the eighth paragraph of MPEP 2101[R2].II.C.,

in art 2  
23

*"Office personnel are to give claims their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the supporting disclosure. In re Morris, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023,1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997)."*

Based on the interpretation of the claim limitations being argued, the Examiner will now explain how the teachings of the Rivette reference are within the scope of these limitations.

Rivette teaches, in column 4, lines 10-14 and column 17, lines 35-38, a system for viewing patent related information comprising: a database used for storing patent information , in column 114, lines 5-40 and figures 117, 118, 123, and 124, a group pane for displaying top level patent group information and a document pane for displaying a list of patents and other documents in the selected group. With regard to claim 1, further teaching wherein when one of the first file links is selected an associated underlying resource is automatically returned, Rivette further teaches, in column 115, lines 1-15, that upon user selection of a patent file/document the actual document is displayed to the user using the user interface module. With regard to claim 1, further teaching the patent documents and the patent files accessible from the first and second display sections all pertains to the patent application, Rivette teaches, in column 114, lines 17-46 and figure 117, the information pertaining to patent documents where, if a user drills down to a specific application in the group pane, the only information left to be displayed in the document pane and notes pane would be the

information specific to the application (title, abstract, inventor, notes, etc, of the patent application).

The examiner will now address the individual arguments and statements made by Appellant.

From page 11 of the Appeal Brief, from the third paragraph, the Appellant argues that Rivette doesn't teach "a user interface with two separate display sections, both of which display a plurality of file links."

The examiner respectfully contends that first Rivette teaches a system for accessing patents and patent documents, where a user first makes a selection of a particular group from a group hierarchy in a first pane they are then provided with a list of patent documents contained in the selected group of the group hierarchy in a second pane (see column 113, line 65 through column 114, line 21).

From page 11 of the Appeal Brief, from the third paragraph, the Appellant argues that Rivette doesn't teach the file links in both of these display sections pertain to the same patent application.

The examiner respectfully contends that first the flexibility of Rivette comes in to play when we discuss the Group pane, as a user can create entries of the group pane. The entries can be either Patents or even Patent Documents (see column 116, lines 45-49 and column 118, lines 30-44). This being said the Group Pane could provide for

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selection of anywhere from a group of patents, to a patent, to documents related to a patent. The group pane, being used as an organization hierarchy, could select a particular submission for a patent application in the first pane (Group Pane), and be provided with the documents that were submitted in the submission in the second pane (Document Pane) (see column 114, lines 22-26 and figure 117), with all the elements of both panes pertaining to the same patent application. A single patent analysis tools is known in the art as cited by Rivette (see column 2, line 65 through column 3, line 3).

From page 12 of the Appeal Brief, from the second paragraph, the Appellant argues that the “disclosure teaches only a single display section with file links, not two separate display sections, each with a plurality of file links, as recited by claim 1.”

The examiner respectfully contends that Rivette teaches the first pane (Group Pane) being capable of providing a plurality of links to different files (see column 116, lines 45-49 and column 118, lines 30-44), and be provided with document file links that are a subset of the document file links selected in the first pane in the second pane (Document Pane) (see column 114, lines 22-26) (see column 113, line 66 through column 114, line 40).

From page 13 of the Appeal Brief, from the first paragraph, the Appellant argues that Rivette doesn't teach a display section with a plurality of links each of

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which "provides access to a patent file that is associated with an application program".

The examiner respectfully contends that the applicant admits in the first paragraph of page 13 of the 8-8-06 response that "Rivette also discloses that " the operator can view the text and/or image of any patent or other document listed in the document pane 11706 by selecting the patent or document using well-known selection techniques". This appears to be an admission of a selectable patent image. Rivette does teach, in column 114, lines 21-40 and in column 115, lines 1-15 and figures 122-124, a group of selectable patents, displayed in the document panel, that upon selection provide view of the associated patent in either a text application window or a image application window in the application program.

From page 14 of the Appeal Brief, from the second paragraph, the Appellant argues that the Examiners statement that if a user drills down to a specific application in the group pane, the only information left to be displayed in the document pane would be information specific to the application, is speculation and finds no support in the disclosure of Rivette itself.

The examiner respectfully contends that entries in the Group pane can be either Patents or even Patent Documents (see column 116, lines 45-49 and column 118, lines 30-44). This being said the Group Pane could provide for selection of anywhere from a group of patents, to a patent, to documents related to a patent. The group pane, being used as an organization hierarchy (see column 113, line 66 through column 114, line

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12), could select a particular submission for a patent application (group category relating to patents) in the first pane (Group Pane), and be provided with the documents that were submitted in the submission in the second pane (Document Pane) (see column 114, lines 22-26 and figure 117), with all the elements of both panes pertaining to the same patent application.

**Claims 13, 20, 32, and 33:**

From page 15 of the Appeal Brief, from the third paragraph, the Appellant argues that Rivette doesn't teach information including correspondence generated from one or more of an inventor client system, an in house client system and an outside representative client system, where in said first section is displayed a list of said correspondence.

The examiner respectfully contends that more than the Applicant's cited portion of the office action was relied upon to show teaching of this limitation. Applicant appears to admit to Rivette teaching a correspondence generated by client system by stating "The Applicant submits that the ability of a user of the Rivette system to add notes relating to a particular patent or group of patents teaches or suggest correspondence generated from the client systems recited in claim 1." (see page 16, paragraph 1, of the Appeal Brief). Because of the adaptability of the Rivette system each region (Group, Document, and Notes) is capable of displaying correspondence information from a client system. Rivette teaches the Group pane providing a selectable Hierarchy of patent information, with the Document pane providing a subset

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of the selected group selected from the group pane, and the notes pane provides notes associated with either the selection of the Group or Document pane (see column 113, line 66 through column 114, line 57 and figure 117).

**Claim 35:**

From page 17 of the Appeal Brief, from the third paragraph, the Appellant argues that “wherein at least one of the application documents is stored in a word processor format and corresponds to a file history document stored in an image file format that is accessible through the plurality of first file links.”

The examiner respectfully contends that Rivette teaches, in column 115, lines 1-15, the documents/files being displayable in an application program in a text format and an image format. The Group panel has a plurality of entries that can be either Patents or even Patent Documents (see column 116, lines 45-49 and column 118, lines 30-44), further more the Document panel contains links to either Patents or Patent Documents (see column 113, line 66 through column 114, line 5). Where the Group panel allows for selection of a group of documents (historically stored document) and the further panels provide for more detailed information for the selected patent file.

**(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix**

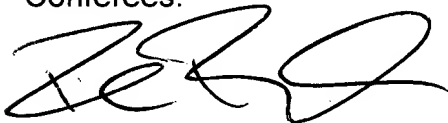
No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

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For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

Conferees:



Dennis Bonshock  
Examiner AU 2173  
October 5, 2007



John Cabeca.  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2100  
October 5, 2007



Lynne Browne  
Appeal Practice Specialist, TQAS  
Technology Center 2100  
October 5, 2007